

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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TODEP 73

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TODEP NUMBER 73 ADDED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO

SUBJECT: UPDATED TALKING POINTS ON PORTUGAL FOR DEPUTY
SECRETARY'S USE IN MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER PALME

1. PLEASE SUBSTITUTE THE FOLLOWING UPDATED BACKGROUND AND
TALKING POINTS ON PORTUGAL IN THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S BRIEF-
ING BOOK.

2. BACKGROUND. IN AN EFFORT TO FORM THE SIXTH PROVISIONAL
GOVERNMENT, PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE PINHEIRO AZEVEDO IS
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CONTINUING HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE THREE MAJOR POLITICAL

PARTIES (SOCIALISTS, POPULAR DEMOCRATS AND COMMUNISTS). HE EXPECTS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A GOVERNING COALITION BY SEPTEMBER 11; THE GONCALVES GOVERNMENT REMAINS IN OFFICE UNTIL THEN. STILL UNRESOLVED IS THE QUESTION OF PINHEIRO AZEVEDO'S WILLINGNESS TO ACQUIESCE TO CONDITIONS DEMANDED BY THE SOCIALISTS AND THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS AS THE PRICE OF THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT. HIGH ON THE LIST OF "CONDITIONS" ARE SUCH ISSUES AS THE FUTURE POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES AND THE SCOPE OF THE PINHEIRO AZEVEDO ECONOMIC PROGRAM.

3. THE COMMUNISTS -- WHOSE INCLUSION IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT SEEMS LIKELY -- ARE IN A CONCILIATORY MOOD NOW THAT GONCALVES (THEIR PRINCIPAL AFM SUPPORTER) HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM OFFICE AND POLITICAL POWER. WE EXPECT TO HEAR MORE COMMUNIST PLEAS FOR SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY WITH SOARES.

4. IN ITS SEPTEMBER 8 MEETING, THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL DECIDED:

-- TO ALLOW "MODERATE" LEADERS MELO ANTUNES AND VITOR ALVES TO RETAIN THEIR COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP (BOTH HAD BEEN TOLD THEIR POSITIONS WERE IN JEOPARDY).

-- TO ALLOW PRO-COMMUNIST LABOR MINISTER COSTA MARTINS ALSO TO STAY ON THE COUNCIL.

-- TO PROHIBIT THE NEWS MEDIA FROM PUBLISHING OR BROADCASTING REPORTS OF ARMED FORCES' POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS, RALLIES, MANIFESTOS, ETC. UNLESS SUCH INFORMATION COMES FROM DESIGNATED OFFICIAL SOURCES.

-- TO ESTABLISH A RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE UNDER "MODERATE" SPOKESMAN VASCO LOURENCO TO RECOMMEND A REORGANIZATION OF THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.

YOUR TALKING POINTS:

-- WE ARE PLEASED THAT GONCALVES HAS FINALLY BEEN REMOVED FROM OFFICE AND WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE APPARENT
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"MODERATE" GAINS REFLECTED IN THE SEPTEMBER 8 DECISION OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.

-- NEVERTHELESS, THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN "MODERATES" ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE TO NEED AS MUCH SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT AS THEY CAN GET. THE SITUATION WILL CLARIFY SOMEWHAT WHEN THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS ANNOUNCED.

-- HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT A GOVERNMENT IN WHICH COMMUNISTS HAVE POSITIONS OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD RECEIVE WESTERN SUPPORT, NOR DO WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS' INTEREST TO ADVOCATE OR PARTICIPATE IN SUCH A GOVERNMENT.

-- REGARDLESS OF WHO EVENTUALLY EMERGES DOMINANT IN PORTUGAL'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP, SHORT AND MID-TERM ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN UNSOLVED. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THE AID TO PORTUGAL (AS OPPOSED TO AID TO THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS) SHOULD BE PRECONDITIONED ON A VISIBLE EVOLUTION TOWARD PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY IN THAT COUNTRY.

-- OVER THE PAST YEAR, SWEDISH AND U.S. VIEWS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL. WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE THE CASE AND THAT THE PORTUGUESE "MODERATES" CAN COUNT UPON SWEDISH AID AND ADVICE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO SOARES.

-- AS A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE, WE HAVE RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES'S REQUEST FOR HELP IN EVACUATING PORTUGUESE REFUGEES FROM ANGOLA BY PROVIDING TWO DC-8 STRETCH JETS FOR DAILY EVACUATION FLIGHTS. KISSINGER

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